

The Gospel News

The Church of Jesus Christ, Monongahela, Pa., USA.

January, 1994

Volume 50, No. 1

Southwest Area Campout 1993

"I do set my bow in a cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth" (Genesis 9:13).

When God spoke these words to Noah, He sealed His covenant never to destroy the earth by flood again. The symbol of a rainbow reminds us of that great promise He made.

A glorious rainbow greeted all those who came to the Southwest Area Campout on August 14, 1993. The colorful arc in the sky could be seen from miles around as drivers made their way to the wooded campsite in Gallup, New Mexico. The theme for this exciting event was *Covenants*. How appropriate that God should provide us with a wonderful reminder of the many covenants He has made with His people! Friday night, as the campers gathered in the lovely chapel set in the piney forest, many related that they saw the rainbow. Truly we knew that God would be blessing us during our weekend together.

Friday evening was spent singing hymns of praise as people flocked in from various parts of Arizona and New Mexico. A car full of members from the Dallas Mission even made the 14-hour journey to be with the saints of God. Brother John Mancini inspired us

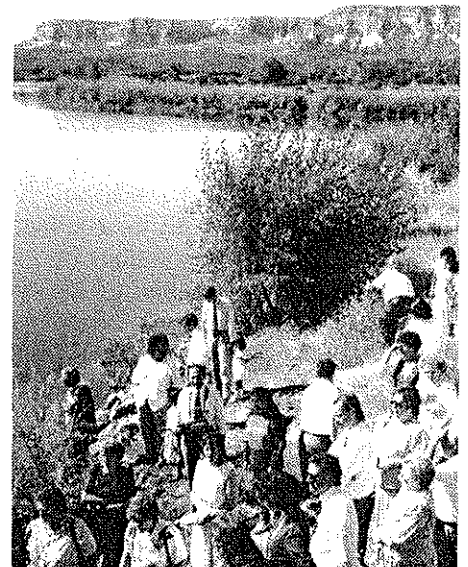
with a brief sermon on the greatest convert of all: God's sacrifice of His Son Jesus Christ. His death and resurrection were fulfilled so that we might have eternal life through His mercy and grace. As the service ended and we fellowshiped in the meeting hall, there was an atmosphere of great joy and excitement. Many were anxious to see what the Lord had in store for us. But few could anticipate the great events that would take place on Saturday!

The crisp morning air in the mountains of Gallup spurred us to rise from our beds. We filled ourselves with a wonderful meal provided by Brother Tony Danté, who worked tirelessly to feed the saints throughout the weekend. Afterward, we gathered in the chapel where Brother Larry Watson greeted everyone. He related how God had inspired him to choose the theme for the campout. Then he introduced Brother Joe Ignagni, a newly-ordained elder from Dallas, who would open the meeting.

Brother Joe expressed the great joy he felt in being at the camp. He stated that as he was preparing to be the keynote speaker, he too felt God's direction. He spoke on God's forgiveness and how it is through this that we have an opportunity to

follow him. Each day, we need to recommit ourselves to the covenant we made at the water's edge. Putting God first in our lives and following the leadings of His Spirit helps us to keep that promise. Brother Joe reassured us that God will always be faithful in fulfilling His portion of the covenant. Our service to God is based on liberty, not constraints. God has given us the tools to be free to celebrate the joy of loving Him and

(Continued on Page 2)



Saints and friends gather at water's edge during 1993 Southwest Area Campout.

Note of Thanks

On September 1, 1993, my son, Bill Krocsko Jr., passed from this life unexpectedly at the age of 38. The elders of the Imperial, Pennsylvania Branch conducted the funeral service. It was a peaceful, quiet morning. God comforted us.

I thank God that He has been with me and given me the strength that I need.

“While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept: for I said, who can tell whether God will be gracious to me, that the child may live? But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me” (II Samuel 12:22-23).

I want to extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to all of you—for your love, cards, and kindness towards me and my family during our time of sorrow. How many times I have said, “Where would we be without the love of our brothers and sisters?”!

Love in Christ,
Sister Margaret (“Sis”) Roscart
Moore Rd.
Imperial, PA 15126

With all my heart I wish to express my thanks to all the brothers and sisters for the expressions of sympathy, beautiful cards, telephone calls, and gifts in our time of sorrow for the loss of our beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather.

Some of his last beautiful words were, “. . . I am happy. . . . I want to see the Lord. . . . I will meet you at the first resurrection. . . . God is love and love is of God.”

Sister Eva Moore and Family
Imperial, Pennsylvania

CAMPOUT continued . . .

committing ourselves to His will.

The rest of the day was occupied by seminars, Ladies’ Circle, a young people’s meeting, crafts, and, of course, sports. We were able to enjoy the chance to fellowship in this beautiful setting.

The Saturday evening service began with a long period of community singing. Brother Ike Smith opened in prayer, and Brother Pete Genaro stated that this would be a service where everyone would participate. Several small groups sang hymns. Brothers Bob Watson and David Majoros gave beautiful solos for the congregation to enjoy. Soon, the meeting was opened to testimony. After a few brothers and sisters expressed themselves, the young people sang some wonderful songs. Then Brother Ike Smith, under the inspiration of God, spoke to the newly baptized members. He asked all of those who had been baptized in the past year to come up and make a public declaration that they would “keep their covenant with the Lord.” One by one, they made that powerful statement. As each member of the congregation witnessed their commitment, many cried tears of joy. All were touched by God’s precious Spirit. One sister heard a voice speak to her over and over during this time. The Spirit said, “Compel them to come in. Compel them to come in. Compel them to come in, and taste the feast which I have prepared for them!” As she related this experience, Brother Ike Smith spoke in the gift of tongues. The interpretation was given as “Come into the covenant.”

As the evening progressed, twelve souls asked for their baptism! Praise God for His goodness! Coralee Tenijeth, Pat Mead, Charlie Mead, Amy Palensar, Luke Smith, Larisa Landrey, Ty Duncan, Tim Gibson, Jonah Mancini, Kathy Watson, Ann Wilson Calabrese, and Nicole Hood all asked to make their covenant with the Lord that night. At this time, Brother Joe Ignagni related an experience. He had asked God in his prayers to bless the

campout with ten baptisms. Then he heard a voice say, “Do not limit Me. There may be even more.” Truly, it was a glorious sight seeing each candidate step forward and ask to taste the feast which God had prepared. The gifts were made manifest that evening as a confirmation to His Spirit.

Sunday morning, our service began at the shore of a serene lake in the midst of the Zuni Indian Reservation. The stark beauty of the mesas served as the backdrop for the witnessing of four baptisms. The other candidates chose to wait until they went home to be baptized. Prior to closing in prayer, an invitation was presented to anyone else who might want to partake of the covenant. Upon hearing this, Emil Palensar came forward to declare his desire for baptism.

Our service resumed back at the chapel as the brethren conferred the Holy Spirit on our new brothers and sisters. Brother Pete Genaro spoke on the significance of the Holy Ghost in assisting us in keeping our commitment to the Lord. Brother Brian Martorana continued the service by imploring us to step forward and not be ashamed of our covenant. He directed us to go the extra mile in our service to Him and we would be truly rewarded. Truly, this campout will long be remembered as a time when God blessed His people and renewed His covenant with His children.

Announcement

For February, 1994, the CD rates for the General Church Building Fund are as follows:

1 year	3.75%
2 years	4.50%
3 years	4.75%
4 years	5.00%
5 years	5.25%

To make a deposit or obtain additional information, please contact Brother Gary Martin at 412/376-3365.

Pacific Coast District Conference

By Virginia Suprenant

The West Coast District Conference was hosted by the Bell Branch and convened at the Western High School in Anaheim, California on Sunday, November 7, 1993.

Brother Thomas M. Liberto announced that Brother Rudy Meo would be ordained into the priesthood. Brother Rudy was an ordained elder 20 years ago when he left the Church. After being away from the Church all these years, he was reinstated in February of 1993. Today, he would be re-ordained into the ministry. Revelations were given during the Saturday conference confirming his ordination.

Opening prayer was offered by Brother Walt Jankowski. Brother Ken Jones followed by singing *There Is a Lighthouse on the Hillside*. The Spanish Choir, consisting of brothers and sisters from California and Mexico, sang *Because He Lives and Come to the Light* in Spanish. A trio sang *There Is No Other Name but Jesus and Lord, Have Mercy Now on Me*.

Brother Rudy was called forward by Brother Tom Liberto as Brother Joseph Lovalvo spoke to the priesthood regarding the ordinance of washing Brother Rudy's feet. He asked that the elders would turn their hearts to God and pray that someone would be inspired by Him to perform this ordinance. Brother John DiBattista came forward and washed Brother Rudy's feet. The priesthood then surrounded Brother Rudy and Brother Paul Grey stepped forward to ordain him.

Brother Frank Genaro spoke to the congregation from I John 4, "Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world" (verse 3). He spoke of love being action. Christ's action was that He loved the world and died on the cross for our sins. Brother Frank gave us the following message that he received from God. He related to us that while standing in his garage, the voice of the Lord

spoke to him, saying, "Go across the street and give your testimony to your neighbor." He was reluctant to do so, and said, "Lord, I can't do that." The voice spoke to him twice more, repeating the message. Brother Frank then went reluctantly across the street and gave his neighbor his testimony on how he came into the Church. He explained how good he felt afterward, when he came home. The neighbor never came to church, but Brother Frank is now known in his neighborhood as a minister of the Church, and has been called upon to anoint some of his neighbors.

Brother Frank admonished us to act upon our love for mankind as Christ did, by sharing our testimony with our friends and neighbors.

Brother Frank expounded that we should not be closing branches and missions, we need to be building new churches and filling them. We must go out and tell others about the Gospel. Bring our friends and neighbors to church, and the elders will talk to them. It does not matter that our neighbors have a church of their own; we need to tell them of our church. We must work on our God-given talents and not hide them. Our brother challenged us all to go out and speak to our neighbors about The Church of Jesus Christ.

The children's choir sang *Everybody Ought to Know Who Jesus Is*.

Brother Paul Liberto spoke about the Quorum of 70 evangelists and presented Brother Tony Picciuto with a plaque for his 25 years of service as an evangelist. Brother Picciuto humbly accepted the plaque and expressed his gratitude.

Sadly, news of the passing of Brother Peter Capone was announced. Brother Tom Liberto called for a moment of silence. Afterwards, Brother Rudy Meo gave a brief word of testimony and closed in prayer.

The conference was adjourned, and everyone was invited to the Anaheim Branch where lunch was served and an afternoon meeting was scheduled, with the ordinance of Communion being administered. During the afternoon meeting, Sister Gertie Alms was reinstated into the Church.

Another conference well-attended, and the good news of the ordination of Brother Rudy Meo into the ministry and Sister Gertie Alms's reinstatement into the Church. Sadly, the news of the passing of our Evangelist Brother Peter Capone and the announcement of the many brothers and sisters who are so seriously ill. Please, let's remember these prayer requests throughout the Church. May God bless you all.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

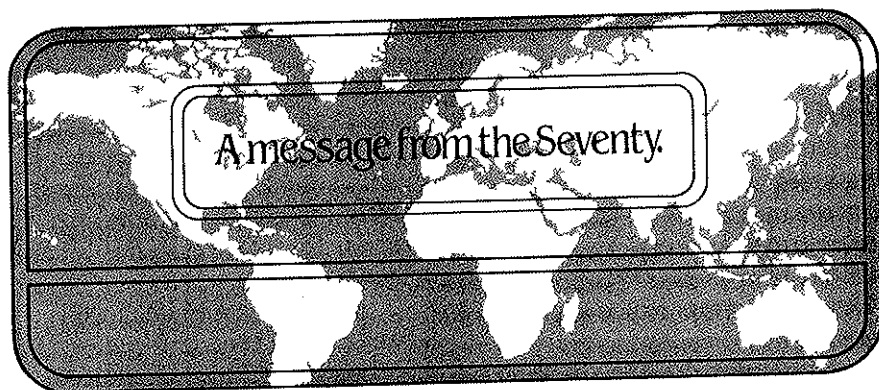
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Correction

Brother Joseph Bitteringer's zip code was printed incorrectly in the November, 1993 *Gospel News*. The correct zip code is 15489.



Missionary Trip to India, via England

(Following is a report of a very successful, eventful trip which Brothers Joseph Calabrese, Paul Palmieri, Philip Jackson, and Joel Gehly made to India via England from November 27 through December 12, 1993. The Lord's protection and guidance were present throughout the fast-paced journey. —Evangelist Editor's note)

The four brothers first stopped in England on Sunday, November 28, and traveled to the home of Brother Pat O'Callaghan and his wife, Beryl, about 100 miles from London. There were many blessings during the meeting held in the afternoon.

Brother Paul spoke from St. John 15 on love. Communion utensils were consecrated and the Lord's Supper was served.

The four visitors felt the Spirit of God directing them to ordain Brother Pat a deacon, and he gave a very humble testimony in accepting his calling. He also requested, along with his wife, that their home be dedicated to God for use by the Church. Brother Palmieri offered this dedicatory prayer. The Spirit bore witness to Brother Calabrese that this is the first mission in England for The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother Gehly washed Brother O'Callaghan's feet, and Brother Calabrese ordained him a deacon.

ON TO INDIA

The next day, the brothers left for India, arriving in Madras early Tuesday morning. After getting

settled at their hotel, they went to the new Church building for the first Indian conference, and were warmly received by the brothers and sisters. The church building is a beautiful, large concrete structure which can accommodate 200-250 people. It is located on a main thoroughfare in downtown Madras. A thatched room was erected on the roof of the building, housing a basket-weaving business. There are 67 members in Madras.

Brother Babu began the conference by introducing the four visiting brothers, who were presented with flowers and a plaque. Brother Jackson spoke about Communion, after which the sacrament was passed to all members.

In the afternoon, Brother Palmieri discussed feet-washing. There was a spirit of humility as the ordinance was then performed. After singing some hymns, the session was dismissed.

The conference continued for two more days. The brothers observed that there were three languages represented: Temil, Telligu, and English, and they noted, "It is a wonderful experience to teach and communicate together in the unifying love of Christ."

On Wednesday morning, Brother Gehly discussed the Spirit of God and the spiritual gifts. Various testimonies and experiences were shared.

After lunch, a few hymns were sung in Temil and Telligu. All in

attendance were asked to introduce themselves and tell where they work.

Brother Calabrese gave a lesson on the establishment of The Church of Jesus Christ, including information about Joseph Smith Jr. and the Restoration of the Gospel. All the saints there feel tremendous love and respect for Brother Calabrese, who had traveled with the late Evangelist Alvin Swanson to start the work there in 1980 and who until recently was the General Church's Coordinator to India.

The next day, Brother Jackson, who succeeded Brother Calabrese as the Indian Coordinator, began the sessions with lessons on the Holy Ghost and anointing with oil. The blessing of children was also reviewed. Brother Palmieri then spoke about the duties and responsibilities of members.

Two new elders, Brothers Francis and A. Amos, and a new deaconess, Sister Vasanthi Francis, were ordained during the afternoon meeting. Brother Calabrese spoke of the "beautiful calling and responsibility which now are upon our brothers." He stated that "many hundreds will be affected by the Gospel in India, and our brothers will be used by God in the work." Brother Palmieri enumerated on the duties of an elder.

Brother Francis' feet were washed by Brother Palanisam, and Brother Amos' feet were washed by Brother Yohan. Brother Jackson then offered prayer as all the elders knelt in a circle around the two brothers. Brother Francis was ordained by Brother Babu, and Brother Amos was ordained by Brother Livingston.

Brother Palmieri discussed the duties of a deaconess and the special calling which is upon our sister. Sister Vasanthi had her feet washed by her mother-in-law, Sister Mary Manuel, and she was ordained by Brother Dev.

Brothers Jackson, Calabrese, Babu, and Livingston gave some closing remarks about the conference and the dedication needed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Brother Phil,

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The Gospel News

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

"My brethren, these things ought not so to be" (James 3:10). This rebuke by James to the faithful skillfully criticizes the behavior of Christ's followers in a manner that is somehow not offensive to the hearers. To this day, James's writings effectively motivate people to prayerfully correct their erroneous thoughts and actions. In our own journey through life, we might likewise feel prompted on occasion to offer our opinions about the conduct of others, usually with somewhat less success than James had in changing people's lives.

It is true that we should not stand by silently while others—especially professing believers—commit transgressions before our very eyes. All sin, whether public or private, has a detrimental effect on the spiritual welfare of the saints, the Church, and the world. However, we quickly learn the meaning of Christ's commandment, *"Judge not, that ye be not judged"* (Matthew 7:1), when we make the mistake of telling people, without divine inspiration, what they should and should not do. What, then, enables James and other Bible and Book of Mormon authors—or any effective preacher, for that matter—to correct without offending, to criticize without discouraging, and to lead without coercing?

James's writings bear the mark of one who has spent much time observing the mixture of human interaction around him with an analytical eye. Seasoned with the Spirit of God, this tendency to observe and correct evolves into self-examination. None of us can change another person, but each of us, with the help of God, can transform the carnal, debased nature of our own hearts and minds. Confronted with such a task, the introspective man or woman of God offers no judgment on the lives of others except to learn from the errors of their fellow servants and resolve inwardly not to make the same mistakes.

Real change requires continued application of an inward determination not to sin. Thankfully, we have the Spirit and power of God at our disposal to do for us what we cannot do ourselves, and bring about that miraculous change of heart. Real spiritual growth is neither effortless nor painless, but once we have experienced change—once we can say with confidence in Christ that what we were, we'll never be again—we will have the power of that testimony to draw upon for our own sustained growth, and for assisting in the spiritual growth of others.

James, like every true follower of Christ, experienced a change of heart and life that freed him from sin and gave him the liberty to effectively teach and lead, even to the point of saying, "These things ought not so to be," with credibility, integrity, and authority. The same words spoken by a hypocrite would fall upon deaf ears, for it is the life we lead, the example we set when we have been spiritually transformed, that becomes our most effective teaching tool.

Jesus put it best when He said, *"[F]irst cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast the mote out of thy brother's eye"* (Matthew 7:5). Let us try in the coming year to examine what "ought not so to be" in ourselves more than in others, and prayerfully work at becoming a new person in Christ. It will require a great deal of hard work, and is bound to be painful at times, but God's Church will prosper as a result, and the world will be a much better place for it.

The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock



Nephi's Father Dreams

Dear Boys and Girls,

How would you feel if your father woke up one morning and told you that you and your family had to move? If he told you that you were going to leave your beautiful, safe home and live in tents would you be happy?

Nephi's father, Lehi, told his wife and four sons that they had to leave everything behind and go into the wilderness. God was going to allow the city of Jerusalem to be destroyed and the wicked people there to be taken as slaves. But the family of good Lehi was going to be saved. God planned to take them to a new land, far away, a land of promise.

Two of Nephi's sons, Laman and Lemuel, were really mad that they had to go. They didn't want to leave their friends, their plans, and the property and riches they would someday own. They did not believe anything could destroy a city as important and big as Jerusalem.

Every step of the way they muttered and murmured against their father. Anger filled them until they were like the Jews in Jerusalem who tried to take Lehi's life. The two younger brothers, Sam and Nephi, began to wonder who was right, their father or their older brothers.

After walking for several days from Jerusalem, Lehi had enough of his older sons. The Spirit of God filled him and he began to talk with Laman and Lemuel. Such power was

there that those young men shook. They were so overcome that they did not dare to keep complaining against their father, and they did as he commanded them.

Now Nephi was a very young man, although he was the size of a full-grown man. Yet he began to wonder about the mysteries of God. He wondered if God had really showed his father everything he said God had. And Nephi cried unto the Lord.

The Lord heard Nephi, and visited him and softened his heart until he believed the words of his father. Nephi told his brother, Sam, about the love of God and Sam believed him.

But Laman and Lemuel still hated and disbelieved. Nephi was brokenhearted that his brothers were so hard. He went to God in prayer for them, and God showed Nephi that everything was under control.

All four sons of Lehi were going to a Promised Land. The Lord told Nephi that in the future the people that descended from Laman and Lemuel would go against the people descended from Nephi. In that day God would curse them. They would be lazy, full of trouble, and not able to beat the people of Nephi. Those people of Nephi would rule over them as long as they served God.

The Lord continued to bless Nephi as time passed. Nephi saw many wonderful things in dreams. He was shown every single human being that ever would live. (That means

you and me!) He saw Jesus Christ before he was even born on earth.

All of this happened according to God's plan and because one young man, Nephi, had a desire to know the mysteries of God. Nephi gave up a comfortable life he knew well to journey in the wilderness and cross the mighty oceans. What if sometime we are asked to give up something familiar, and safe, because God's Holy Spirit shows us to? Would you be willing to ask God, to believe your dreams, and to open your heart to a new life? As God helped Nephi, He could help you, and He would, but *you* have to ask first.

Sincerely,
Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

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|-----------|-------|
| JERUSALEM | JEWS |
| RETURN | CRY |
| TO | PRAY |
| NEPHI | SHAKE |
| SAM | LOW |
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Branch and Mission News

Baptism in Detroit Branch #1

By Patti Saragosa

On August 8, 1993, Stephanie Rado, daughter of Brother Edward and Sister Frances Palposi, was baptized by Brother Mike LaSala and became Sister Stephanie Rado, a daughter of the King!

Brother Peter Scolaro began our morning service by speaking from Acts 8:26-40. In this portion of scripture, Philip meets an eunuch who is reading from Isaiah. Philip is led to preach to him about Jesus and, as they go on their way, they come upon some water. The eunuch declared, "See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?" Brother Peter remarked that so it is with Stephanie; what, or who, can keep her from being baptized?

Visiting with us that day from the Sterling Heights Branch was Brother John Buffa, Stephanie's uncle. He spoke from Matthew 3 and quoted verse 11, "... he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire." Stephanie's father, Brother Ed, then got up and testified about how our prayers are heard by a living God. When Stephanie had called him and said that she wanted to be baptized, he was shocked, but he told her to come to church. After he hung up the telephone, he heard a voice say to him, "She is My daughter."

When we met at the water that afternoon, there was a bustle of activity going on. A boat show was beginning on Lake St. Clair; airplanes and helicopters were flying overhead, and there was a group of people sitting near us, waiting to watch the boats. Little did they know they were about to witness something greater than a boat passing by; they were going to witness the true disciples of Jesus Christ performing

His will. As Sister Stephanie came up out of the water, her face looked so radiant and beautiful that you could see the peace of God was upon her.

In our afternoon service, Brother Mike LaSala told of his experience when Sister Stephanie called him that Friday night. He asked her if she was sure she wanted to get baptized and she replied, "Brother Mike, I am sure because God has blessed me."

After our sister was confirmed by Brother Lou Pietrangelo we sang the hymn *Now I Belong to Jesus*. Sister Frances Palposi then stood up and said that she knew Brother Lou was going to confirm Sister Stephanie before it happened. Here is our new sister's personal testimony:

I was raised in the Church and attended regularly until my late teens; then I drifted away. My parents would often tell me of the many blessings they received in church: topics preached upon, the importance of salvation, the power of prayer. My parents never pushed, but every now and then a little suggestion was made. When I did go to church, the brothers and sisters were so warm and friendly—this always stayed with me.

A year before I was baptized, there began a horrible battle within me; it felt like I had no control. Something tried so hard to keep me away from hearing the things of God and the Church. This battle tried to keep me from praying, but I still prayed; I had to force myself. My struggle made me literally go into panic attacks when anyone talked about the Church or the things of God, but I forced myself to listen because I felt that if I let this evil take over me, I would be lost forever.

One year of intense battle went on and I said to myself, "The best way to conquer a fear is to face it." This struggle with evil had made me afraid of Church and it made me afraid to talk about it with *anyone*.

Then it seemed that whenever I would say I was going to face my fears and go to church, the battle lessened!

On August 4, I called my dad and out of the blue he began to tell me his testimony and how he came into the Church. I didn't tremble or fear, and I couldn't understand why not. The next day, I was sitting at my computer at work when I felt a panic begin within me. I don't know exactly where it came from, but I began to shake. By this time I had had it with this confusion and fear! I called upon the Lord and began to pray. I said, "Lord, I know You know how to work with me. You don't want me confused and afraid, You want only good things. Please rebuke this evil that wants to take me away from You, please work with me in a way that it will be easy to shake this evil and follow you, for no one knows me like You do. Please help me."

At that moment I was unaware of my surroundings. I could feel this evil *drain* from my body and the Spirit of the Lord filled me from head to toe! What a peace! What love! What a heavy burden lifted! I didn't know what to do with this new feeling. I loved even those who used to irk me at work. How could this be? I said to myself, "I want to be baptized," and I waited for the battle to rage, and it didn't. I said, "I want to go to church and be baptized," and I waited and no battle, nothing but joy and a drive to be baptized in the water and of the Spirit in The Church of Jesus Christ!

I called my parents and asked my dad, "What would mom do about work Sunday if I called for my baptism?" My father was in total shock. Later that evening, I went to my parents' house and Brother Mike LaSala came over. Along with my parents we prayed and we cried a joyful cry. I called Brother Tom Everett and told him I wanted to be baptized, and he called Brother Peter Scolaro. I spoke with Brother Peter and expressed my feelings and told him my experience. I expressed

(Continued on Page 8)

BRANCH #1 continued . . .

again that I wanted to be baptized. Brother Peter gave me some wonderful spiritual advice and food for thought. They were words that I will never forget. He said, "You're an empty house; now you must fill it with good works."

That Sunday, August 8, 1993, as I sat in church, every hymn that was sung touched my heart, every word spoken by the ministry pounded in my heart. How open my eyes were now. Everything made *perfect* sense! I was brought into the water and baptized by Brother Mike LaSala, and confirmed by Brother Lou Pietrangelo. Oh, how *Wonderful!*

A Gathering of the Saints

On Sunday, September 12, 1993, we had our first annual outdoor meeting and fellowship picnic at our home in West Grove, Pennsylvania. There were about seventy brothers, sisters, and friends from Freehold, Edison, Metuchen, and Hopelawn, NJ, as well as Levittown, PA in attendance.

Brothers Joseph Perri, Arthur Searcy, Philip Arcuri, Bob Pizzaia, Jim Crudup, Willie Brown, Tony Vadasz, and Paul Benyola were the elders in attendance.

God gave us a beautiful day to rejoice in the Lord and fellowship with our brothers, sisters, their families, and friends. He also blessed our meeting with a wonderful spirit and moving testimonies. A couple of days after our meeting, one of the visitors, Mrs. Fowler, who is our daughter Jessica's teacher, called to say that she enjoyed the meeting and fellowship so much, she wants to hear more about the Church. Not only that, but she was moved to contact her mother, whom she regrettably hadn't kept in touch with very much lately. We were very happy to hear this, because this was the main reason for the meeting. We hope that next year's meeting will be bigger and bring more friends to know of the Lord and His Church.

We wish to thank everyone who came and brought food. Also, a special thanks to our family for all their help in preparing for this meeting.

Your Brother and Sister in Christ,
Brother Bob and Sister Judy Venuto

**Visitors from Ohio
sojourn to Aliquippa**

We are thankful and praise the Lord for all the blessings that He bestowed upon us as the Aliquippa and Youngstown Branches gathered for a joint meeting in Aliquippa on November 7, 1993. The Lord heard and honored our prayers for good traveling weather for our brothers and sisters, as the memory of the previous Sunday's unexpected seven-inch snowfall was still fresh in our minds. The way was made clear and we enjoyed a beautiful day both within and without the House of God.

Our brothers delivered a message based on the question, "Why are we here (in church)?" Brothers Don Pandone, Ralph Berardino, and Mike Italiano from Youngstown, Brother David Nolfi from Glassport, PA, and Brother Pete Giannetti Sr. from Aliquippa discussed the ground between us and the Lord, and how attending church and keeping His commandments makes that ground smooth and allows us to know where we are going.

A godly life also gives us a joy unmatched when compared to anything else in the world. The morning service came to an end with us all longing for more spiritual food.

The time had come for our needs to be met for physical nourishment. A delicious lunch was served by the Aliquippa Branch for all in attendance, satisfying and refreshing us before meeting for an afternoon service.

Coming together again, we shared the Lord's Supper and a beautiful time of testimony, giving praise to the Lord for His goodness in our lives. Special music was provided by Brother David Pandone

from Youngstown and Brother Pete Giannetti Jr. from Aliquippa. In closing, all the Youngstown visitors sang *God Be with You Till We Meet Again*.

Once again, the Lord had blessed us with a glorious day with our brothers and sisters from Youngstown. May God bless us all until we meet again.

**Spanish Singspiration in
Freehold, NJ**

By Carl Huttenberger

On Saturday night, September 25, 1993, the Freehold, NJ Branch held our first-ever Spanish Singspiration. The singing and praising began at about 7:30, and continued on until after 11:00 p.m. We were happy to see so many visitors from throughout the district. We were also very happy to have many visitors from the Seed of Joseph with us.

Brother Larry Miller of the Freehold Branch made his debut on the guitar, playing along with Sister Suzette Huttenberger on the piano. From the beginning, there was a sweet, beautiful presence of the Spirit of God. Several young brothers took a few minutes to read a little scripture and offer words of encouragement. Brother Mario Morales interpreted, and also spoke in Spanish to his people, introducing them to the wonderful Church of Jesus Christ.

A visiting man from the Seed of Joseph came forth to be anointed for an affliction on his body. After the prayer, he stood and exclaimed that all the pain had left him. Brother Juan Murillo was relating an experience surrounding his father-in-law, who had just arrived in the U.S. from Mexico. As he was speaking, his father-in-law entered the building. He offered a beautiful testimony, saying that despite the fact that his other children attended another church (just around the corner), he would attend The Church of Jesus Christ, because he said the truth was spoken here.